

REMARKS

The invention relates to an apparatus for indicating time with at least one first pointer and a second pointer. Summarily, the first pointer provides a local time indication with a revolution period of twelve hours, and the second pointer provides a world time indication with a revolution period of twenty-four hours in cooperation with a first scale disposed on the dial. The first scale has a sequence of numbers and associated visual demarcations indicated on the dial. The numbers specify degrees of rotation of the second pointer in a range between 0 and 360 degrees. The visual demarcations indicate degrees of rotation of the second pointer. Each degree of rotation of the second pointer represents a time interval of four minutes.

As explained in the application, the invention combines an apparatus that indicates world time with (one or more) revolving first pointers combined with a second pointer that indicates local time at the same or another location, but which revolves twice as slow as the slowest first pointer. The second pointer has a scale with a sequence of numbers and visual demarcations indicative of the degrees of rotation of the second pointer (which corresponds to a time interval of four minutes). This configuration provides for intuitive usage. In particular, the number sequence and visual demarcations can be distinguishable on a clockwork in a relatively small object such as a standard/normal wrist-watch. The scale of numbers and visual demarcations are very well compatible with standard clocks and have been found to be sufficiently accurate for many inter-human communications.

Moreover, the first pointer provides a very fine resolution through the use of a standard three-pointer set, which can provide a resolution below a second. The second pointer surrenders much of this resolution, somewhere in the range of four minutes as provided by the visual demarcations of the scale associated therewith. Through this surrender, the readings of the first and second pointers are decoupled from each other, which advantageously minimizes confusion between the two readings.

In the Final Office Action mailed November 17, 2006, the claims stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,579,004 to Kim (hereinafter “Kim”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,807,497 to Speciale (hereinafter “Speciale”). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s analysis.

More particularly, Kim discloses more or less standard watch configuration (Figure 2) with an hour hand (or pointer) 1, a minute hand 2 and a second hand 3. Furthermore, there is a “beat” hand 4 that indicates Internet time 35 with a scale that indicates 1000 beats, and which hand rotates once a day. In contrast, the second pointer of the claims of the present invention provides **a world time indication with a revolution period of twenty-four hours in cooperation with a first scale comprising a sequence of numbers and associated visual demarcations indicated on the dial, the numbers specifying degrees of rotation of the second pointer in a range between 0 and 360 degrees, and the visual demarcations indicative of degrees of rotation of the second pointer, wherein each degree of rotation of the second pointer represents a**

time interval of four minutes. (emphasis added). This feature is clearly distinctive from the “1000” beat indication of the beat hand and the beat dial of Kim. It is also an improvement over the configuration of Kim as users of the present invention can readily associate the numbers and visual demarcations of the dial of the present invention with the world time, whereas users of Kim are required to translate the “1000” beat indication into a world time.

The reference to Speciale does not remedy the shortcomings of Kim. More particularly, Speciale discloses an arrangement with two pointers that both share a 24-hour period of rotation. The two pointers are used to indicate time for two different locations by amending the angle between the two pointers. The configuration of Speciale clearly suffers from the limitation that confusion between the two readings will be likely as only the color of the two pointers distinguishes the two readings. Of course, the pointers may get a distinguishing shape, but this will not produce the intuitive recognition offered by the configuration of the present invention. Moreover, Speciale clearly lacks the high resolution of the local time indication of the first pointer as recited in the claims.

Applicants note that extending Kim with Speciale’s features would provide Kim with an extra hour hand. It would be completely unclear what the second pointer would then mean in the sense of the Internet beat. Stated otherwise, Kim could get a double hour pointer, which would only render the reading of the timepiece more confusing. From the above arguments, the combining of Kim with all or part of the Speciale features would appear completely illogical, and the advantageous arrangement of the present invention

could only be attained by hindsight or selectively picking only those aspects from two unrelated references that make the present invention a functioning device.

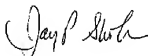
The further references are irrelevant to the present invention.

The present invention is furthermore non-obvious over the references. In a crowded technical field of analog timepieces, several hundred years have seen designers and engineers construct and design all kinds of improvements and modifications. The Speciale reference, by way of example is more than 75 years old. Nevertheless, none of this big body of references has arrived at the principle of the present invention, to wit, the combining of two pointers, wherein one revolves in twelve hours and the other in twenty-four hours in cooperation with a first scale of numbers and visual demarcations indicative of the degrees of rotation of the “twenty-four hour” pointer, and so allowing the intuitive and immediate read-out of local time though a standardized format, combined with a not so familiar format for reading a non-local time that sacrifices the standard twelve hour rotation and thereby much of the resolution, but instead results in the complete unequivocal read-out. Thus, the present invention has provided a timepiece that fully independently contains two watches, one at a high resolution, and one at a much lower resolution that has proved adequate for most situations that occur in the fields of business, traveling, conferencing, and many others.

Thus, the cited references fail to teach or suggest important limitations of the claims for the present invention. For these reasons, the claims of the present invention are patentable over the cited prior art.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay P. Sbröllini". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Sbröllini" clearly distinguishable.

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